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1858 A brief memoir ...

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A
BRIEF MEMOIR
OF THE
PLUMMER FAMILY,
WITH
HISTORICAL NOTICES

RELATIVE TO THE GIFT OF PLUMMER HALL.

BY D. A. WHITE.

SALEM, Oct. 13, 1857.

Hon. D. A. WHITE :

Dear Sir,

At a meeting of the Trustees of the Salem Athenæum, held on the tenth of October, 1857, it was unanimously

Voted, That the Hon. D. A. WHITE be requested to furnish a brief memoir of the Plummer family, with such historical reminiscences of the institutions now occupying "Plummer Hall," as he may deem important for preservation, to be published in connection with the recent dedication services.

Very respectfully,

GEO. CHOATE,

Pres. Salem Athenæum.

SALEM, Oct. 14, 1857.

Dr. G. CHOATE,

President of the Salem Athenæum :

Dear Sir,

I have had the honor to receive your communication of a vote of the Trustees of the Salem Athenæum, requesting me to furnish a brief memoir of the Plummer family, &c. It will afford me great pleasure to comply with the request of the Trustees, so far as I can with the information which I may be able to obtain on the subject.

Very respectfully yours,

D. A. WHITE.

MEMOIR.

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IT is with some reluctance that I undertake to prepare a Memoir of the late Dr. Plummer's family, for I am but too sensible of my inability now to do it with tolerable satisfaction; and I have not the means which would have enabled me at any time to do it properly. But I am induced to attempt a compliance with the request which the Trustees of the Salem Athenæum have done me the honor to make, because I can think of nobody now living who better knew the last surviving member of this family at the happy period of her life when she shone in the society which she adorned as a star of the first brilliancy, and at a later period when, retired from all society, she meditated those acts of public munificence which will immortalize her name.

This remarkable family have too many claims upon our respect and gratitude to be neglected without dishonor to ourselves. Their virtues alone are sufficient to endear their memory, their sad and diversified misfortunes excite a deep sympathy, while the munificence which has given us Plummer Hall,—a munificence to which all the members who lived to exert their influence in some measure contributed,—entitles the whole family to a grateful commemoration. It affords me heartfelt pleasure to participate in such a just and grateful commemoration—and I the more gladly do this in the manner proposed by the Trustees of the Athenæum, because it is substantially in accordance with the kind request previously made to me by the author of the beautiful and touching discourse, delivered at the dedication of the Hall,—that I would on the

same auspicious occasion express my views in relation to certain topics of historical and local interest, which he could but slightly notice.

The name of Plummer will always be dear to the people of Salem; and the memory of Caroline Plummer will never cease to be honored so long as the people appreciate the value of learning, science, virtue, or social happiness. The amount of her public benefactions, and the nature and importance of their several objects, entitle her to be regarded as the most bountiful contributor for the promotion of the real and permanent welfare of Salem that has yet appeared. Though her benefactions were not limited to Salem, yet all provide means of intellectual and moral improvement which will, in a greater or less degree, enure to the benefit of its inhabitants.

The completion of Plummer Hall forms a new era in the intellectual and literary history of Salem. Other eras, of like importance for the time, have preceded it, but this is the noblest of all, inasmuch as the object now attained carries out and crowns the spirit of all in the noblest manner. A beneficent public spirit in regard to the means of improvement and education has existed in Salem from the beginning, and has worthily exerted itself as exigencies called it forth. It would be interesting to trace its operations from the first settlement of the town to the present condition of our public schools and other literary and benevolent institutions; but necessary brevity forbids it. We can now, as preliminary to a notice of the Plummer family, only glance at some of the beneficent agencies leading ultimately to the establishment of the Salem Athenæum and the gift of Plummer Hall.

Our first glance must be at the first great transaction in the settlement of the town,—the foundation of the Church,—for profound wisdom as well as ardent piety marked that memorable transaction. Francis Higginson, “the father and the pattern of the New England clergy,” as he is justly called, being appointed to draw up a confession of faith and covenant, produced a document which, while it formed an admirable manual of Christian faith and duty, embodied the principle of improve-

For Judge White

ment and progress, and recognized the importance of a right education of children. His brave compeer, Governor Endicott, heartily co-operated with him, and subsequently took a provident care for the education of poor children at the expense of the town. Salem, as Dr. Bentley, in his Description of the Town, remarks, well deserves the praise of leading in the establishment of schools. Our town certainly has been blest above most others in the wisdom, learning, piety and energy of its founders, and the leading men among its early settlers. At the very moment for setting up a grammar school, arrived John Fiske, a learned scholar and divine from Cambridge University, and admirably qualified for the work. Among his earliest pupils was George Downing, who was a graduate in the first class of Harvard College, and afterwards so famous abroad. Edward Norris, junior, son of the minister of that name, was a pupil whom he fully educated, and who succeeded him in the Grammar School, and kept it about forty years. "Charity and economy," says Dr. Bentley, "began together in Salem, and as they were nursed together, so they have grown up together." The Grammar School was among the first objects of a generous charity, growing out of strict economy. Hugh Peters, too, arrived just as his enlightened zeal was wanted for the promotion of commerce and the useful arts. Whatever might have been thought of him in Old England, here his zeal was according to knowledge and wisely directed. He proved himself an able statesman and powerful friend of the whole colony, as well as a popular preacher and an energetic benefactor of Salem. His effective influence gave an impulse to industry and enterprise in every direction.

As commerce flourished merchants arose, many of whom, from their habitual economy, had both the means and the generosity to help the cause of education and promote the general welfare. In proof of this we need to refer only to a single family—that of the Brownes—whose charities through successive generations flowed so freely in aid of education, learning, religion, and the poor. William Browne,—truly, as he was afterward styled, the honorable William Browne,—was

here with Fiske and Peters, to catch the love of learning from the one, and the spirit of commerce from the other. He certainly possessed both in an eminent degree, and for more than half a century was distinguished as a successful merchant and a liberal promoter of learning. He was born in England, as stated by Dr. Bentley, in 1607, and came over with his wife in 1635, residing in Salem till his death in 1688. "He left," says Dr. B., "a donation of £150 to Harvard College, and gave £100 at its foundation. He gave, besides, £100 for poor scholars. He gave £50 to the Grammar School in Salem, £50 to the poor, besides £50 to the school in Charlestown, (where his son Joseph Browne was minister), and other sums to pious uses." His faithful services too were given in various important offices of public trust. His sons, William and Benjamin Browne, nobly followed his example, as did several of his grandsons and other descendants, whose generous public spirit is well known and gratefully remembered by the people of Salem. The objects commended by the example of their honored ancestor received their special regard. To make the Grammar School a free school appears to have been one of the favorite designs of these eminent benefactors of the town. The William Browne, whose name appears among the founders of the Social Library, in 1760, was of the fifth generation, and like his ancestor, the first William Browne, was styled "honorable," having been one of his majesty's council. We should of course expect to find that he was loyal to the government, and of too lofty a spirit to brook dictation in matters pertaining to principle and public duty. Having left the country as a loyalist, he was afterwards governor of Bermudas, and lived to enter upon the present century.

Other contemporary families might be named, of equal or superior distinction in the history of Salem, who, if less remarkable for their diffusive charities, were actuated by a like public spirit and not less zealous in promoting the higher interests of the town as well as its commercial prosperity. A bare mention of the founders of the Social Library, just alluded to, Pickman, Orne, Curwen, Higginson, Pyncheon, Oliver, and

others, especially Edward Augustus Holyoke, would at once bring them to our grateful recollection, and show to what sort of men Salem was indebted for the institution of the Social Library, the Philosophical Library, and ultimately the Salem Athenæum.

The Social Library formed an era in our literary history. It sprung from a literary and philosophical culture rather than from a common want felt by the people at large. The Bible was in the hands of all, and though but a single volume, yet comprising as it does many books, containing interesting sketches of history and biography, and the finest specimens of poetry and eloquence, with lessons of wisdom and religious instruction, adapted to every condition of life, was to them a library in itself. This sacred volume being eagerly read by the great body of the people, left little time, perhaps little desire for miscellaneous reading. The sound judgment, stability and moral strength, for which the New England character was so remarkable, may be traced to the faithful use of the Bible—the precious library with which every family was furnished. But as the number of those increased whose occupations afforded leisure for general reading, and whose intelligence and taste led them to indulge in literary pursuits or philosophical inquiries, a collection of various books for general use became important. The Social Library in Salem was a natural result of the propitious agencies which had been so long in operation.

Some years previous, a club had been formed in Salem for improvement in science and philosophy, known latterly as Dr. Holyoke's Monday Evening Club, so called from his being the last surviving member, or from his having had a leading influence in the formation of it. In this club the Social Library was projected, and its members were among the original subscribers. Dr. Holyoke, we know, was conspicuous in both, as well as in the Philosophical Library, afterwards formed. Some knowledge of the members of this club and its proceedings would be interesting to the studious young men who have imbibed their love of letters and science, and who find so happy a resort at the Plummer Hall. The club, like that of Dr. Franklin, formed

thirty years earlier at Philadelphia, was a truly philosophical society, and like that too, as we have seen, established a public subscription library. Franklin's club laid the foundation of the American Philosophical Society, as well as of the Philadelphia Library; and the club here, but for the disastrous times that followed, might have been equally prosperous. Several of its members—Dr. Holyoke, certainly, and Judge Oliver—were among the founders of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; and could they have kept together they might have sooner founded such an academy themselves. But a majority of the members being loyalists, the club was broken up at the approach of the American revolution. William Browne, who united in himself the virtues and the wealth of his family, was obliged to leave the country; and so too was Samuel Curwen and some others.* Even Dr. Holyoke and Judge Oliver were discomfited for their loyalty, although the power of their reputation and their virtues saved them from actual annoyance. The revolution, however, if it dissolved the club and brought the Social Library to a stand, proved the occasion of an important accession of books. The celebrated Kirwan library, captured and brought into Beverly, was purchased by Dr. Holyoke and other friends of science, and formed the foundation of the Philosophical Library.

* For interesting notices of a number of the Salem loyalists see "Journal and Letters of the late Samuel Curwen, Judge of Admiralty, &c., by George Atkinson Ward, A. M.," &c. Hon. Lorenzo Sabine, in his valuable "Biographical Sketches of American Loyalists," speaks as follows of Samuel Curwen, and the work just referred to:—"Graduated at Harvard University in 1735. He was in the commission of the peace for thirty years, and at the breaking out of the Revolution, a Judge of Admiralty. He went to England in 1775, remained there until 1784, when he returned to Salem, where he passed the remainder of his days, dying in 1802, at the age of eighty-six years. While in exile, he kept a Journal, which has lately been published, and is an interesting book; its editor, the accomplished George A. Ward, Esquire, of New York, has enriched it with several notices of his relative's fellow loyalists, and thus added greatly to its value. No work extant contains so much information of the unhappy exiles while abroad." p. 238.

Dr. Holyoke, in his relation to these libraries as well as in his philosophical taste and benevolent character, was the Franklin of Salem. He had more accomplished associates here than Franklin found in Philadelphia, and a like influence in bringing them into co-operation for the promotion of intellectual and moral improvement. No man, perhaps, ever lived so long in any community as he did here, the object of such constant and affectionate veneration. His influence was as universal as it was mild and efficacious. Even Deacon Pickering, the Cato Censor of his time, could make no complaint of Dr. Holyoke, but that "every body spoke well of him." I cannot resist the temptation to speak of this true philosopher and Christian philanthropist, from my own knowledge and experience. When, fifty-four years ago, I came from Cambridge to Salem for a temporary residence, I was at once honored by his hospitality, though I had no recommendation to his attention but my recent connection with Harvard College. My thanksgiving dinner of that year, was taken with him and his family, and I well remember the agreeable surprise I felt on finding in so venerable a character a companion so delightful. When, thirteen years later, I became permanently settled in Salem, I found at all times a cordial welcome at his house, and was honored by his society at mine on various occasions, which made his presence particularly desirable. He repeatedly so honored me, after he was ninety years old, to meet numerous friends and strangers, earnestly desirous to see him. At such times, if not the gayest, he was among the most genial and cheerful, affable and frank in conversation, always ready to impart his various knowledge and to do his part for the common entertainment, unconscious of his claims to distinction. Yet he was not less remarkable for true dignity than for his winning kindness and courteous manners. In his whole character he was genuine. I have known him in many different positions, but in none where he did not appear a model character—a model for imitation as a gentleman, a scholar, a Christian, a philanthropist. It is right and just that we should honor his memory, and important that our young students who aspire as he did in his youth to wisdom,

learning and all excellence, should know his character and the virtues and qualities which gave him his eminent success,—all which are within their reach.

Dr. Holyoke's pervading influence was nowhere more effectual than among the enlightened and wealthy classes. His father-in-law, the first honorable B. Pickman, took the lead in forming the Social Library with his subscription of twenty guineas for four shares. To this gentleman the following passage (written in 1771,) in President John Adams's Diary, relates: "Drank tea at Judge Ropes's, spent the evening at Colonel Pickman's. He is very sprightly, sensible and entertaining." Mr. Adams, at the same time, speaks of Judge Oliver, another subscriber, as a thoroughly well bred gentleman. More than one-third of the original subscribers were graduates of Harvard College, most of whom were active associates of Dr. Holyoke, both in deeds and influence; for instance, Curwen, Barnard, Ropes, Pynchon, Browne, and especially Oliver,—best known as the author of a work on Comets—who was his college friend and of a like benevolent spirit and love of philosophy and science. No superior body of scientific men could have been found at that period in any town of Massachusetts, exclusive of the University.

The Social Library, simple as the institution now appears, may be adduced in evidence of this fact. It is difficult in the present abundance of books and libraries to appreciate the importance of that institution. We must carry ourselves back to that period of time. Dr. Franklin, in his autobiography, says, that when he established himself in Pennsylvania, "there was not a good bookseller's shop in any of the colonies to the southward of Boston." And after speaking of the subscription library formed by himself in Philadelphia with the aid of his club, in 1731, he adds: "This was the mother of all the North American subscription libraries now so common. It is become a great thing itself, and continually goes on increasing." The Salem subscription library, we believe, was the third in the colonies after the Philadelphia parent,—the second in New England, and the *first* in Massachusetts. Dr. Franklin's

closing remarks on the subject will assist us in estimating the importance of the Salem library at the time. "These libraries," he says, "have improved the general conversation of the Americans, made the common tradesmen and farmers as intelligent as most gentlemen from other countries, and perhaps have contributed in some degree to the stand so generally made throughout the colonies in defence of their privileges."

For all such and other various rich benefits from the same source now flowing here in their abundance, we are largely indebted to Dr. Holyoke. Besides his general influence and agency, he served as a trustee of the Social Library and of the Philosophical Library while they had a distinct existence; and he was one of the founders of the Salem Athenæum, and its president for the residue of his long life. So also, ten years later, when he had passed the age of ninety, he was a leading founder and the president while he lived of the Essex Historical Society. The Essex County Natural History Society was not formed till after his death, but the studies of his whole life were promotive of its object, and we may well imagine the lively interest which he would have taken in the union of these societies in the Essex Institute. What would have been his delight to behold all the literary institutions most dear to him in Salem brought together and happily united as they now are in Plummer Hall! His noble portrait which dignifies and adorns the Hall, while it represents his presence, seems to express his serene satisfaction.

The foundation of the Salem Athenæum formed a very important era in the literary history of the town. The preceding libraries were not founded upon principles making them essentially and permanently public institutions. Either of them might have been broken up at any time, and the books dispersed at the pleasure of the proprietors. The act incorporating the Social Library, in 1797, contained no provision against such a result. But the charter of the Salem Athenæum provides that all the estate of the corporation "shall be appropriated for the promotion of literature, of the arts, and sciences, and not otherwise;" rendering the proprietors for the time being in effect trustees, with no personal interest in the books or other property

of the institution but the privilege to use them, and the right to transfer the privilege to others. With such a consecration of their property forever to a public use, the founders assessed themselves one hundred dollars on each share in the Athenæum; and thus with the union of the Social and Philosophical Libraries, admitted on equitable terms, they provided a rare and valuable collection of books, which Dr. Bowditch considered as richer in works of science than was that of the Boston Athenæum, in 1823, when he removed from Salem to the metropolis. The debt of gratitude due to the liberal and enlightened founders of the Salem Athenæum is best paid by a faithful use of the privilege they have transmitted, and by following their example of generosity and public spirit. The example, in so noble a cause, of such men as Holyoke, Orne, Pickman, Bowditch, Pickering, Putnam, Story, Oliver, Tucker, Treadwell, Silsbee, Saltonstall, and others of a kindred spirit and character, could not fail, and can never fail to attract delighted followers. Many such almost immediately appeared. One of the earliest was a distinguished member of the Plummer family—a member to whom our benefactress wished the chief credit of her great donation to be given. Of him only can we now speak particularly.

Ernestus A. Plummer, the eldest son of Dr. Joshua Plummer, having passed a number of years abroad in mercantile business and acquired a competent fortune, returned to this country from St. Petersburg, in Russia, where he had last resided, near the end of the year 1813. He and his sister were now the only surviving members of their family. The strength of their mutual attachment sufficiently appears from the following passage in a letter from him, in December of that year, addressed to her, then in Salem,—“My dear Caroline, no hours pass without my thinking of you in the most affectionate manner; and when you tell me you must now look to me for the whole of your happiness, I feel as much honored as gratified. You may calculate on my presence with you,—my attention and my love,—and if these can afford you happiness, its support shall not be slender.” On taking up

his residence in Salem, he was at once interested in the Athenæum as an institution exactly adapted to afford him the resources which he desired to find for the gratification of his cultivated taste and love of literature. He not only made himself a proprietor, but a benefactor by donations from his private library; and continued a warm friend to the institution while he lived. Upon his death, in 1823, his sister inherited his estate and thus became possessed of all the property acquired and left by her several brothers.

Mr. Plummer had regarded the Athenæum as a noble institution, an honor and a blessing to Salem; and in conversation had often alluded to the importance of a suitable building for its accommodation. His sister, who so entirely sympathised in all his most interesting sentiments and views, naturally made this the first object of her beneficent designs, and cherished it in her heart for years, till she had some misgivings from doubts excited in her mind as to the permanency of the institution, so that for a time she was induced to think more favorably of the Cambridge Observatory. But having, from more particular inquiries, satisfied herself that the Athenæum by its charter was made perpetual, and could not be broken up at the will of the proprietors, her mind settled upon her first object with renewed earnestness from the hope that such a building as she contemplated would revive an animated interest in the prosperity of the institution. As her prospect of increased means extended she also designed a professorship at Harvard College for the moral, physical and Christian welfare of the students; and finally, a farm school of reform for boys for the city of Salem, her means having more than doubled during her protracted life.

It was fortunate that Miss Plummer had leisure to consider her intended gift to the Athenæum in all its bearings, and wisdom to carry it out with enlarged views as to its purposes. She well knew that other scientific and literary institutions had sprung up in Salem, particularly the Essex Historical Society, and the Essex County Natural History Society, brought together and incorporated as the Essex Institute, and she

comprehended the whole within the scope of her beneficent public spirit. The "safe and elegant building" therefore, which she designed upon so liberal a scale as to accommodate all these institutions, should be regarded as of equal importance to three such buildings, one for each of the three first named institutions; and, truly, of superior importance, inasmuch as each institution is as well provided for as it could have been by a separate building, while all have the additional advantage of enjoying each others' various treasures.

The proprietors of the Salem Athenæum, who in their corporate capacity are made trustees of the whole building, have ample accommodations for their library and reading rooms, together with the gratification afforded by the books, documents, and portraits, belonging to the historical department of the Essex Institute, and the rich and admirable collection of specimens and curiosities of nature pertaining to the natural history department. The members of the Essex Institute too have as complete and appropriate accommodations for each of these departments as any distinct building could furnish, together with the privilege of enjoying the books of the Athenæum. Nor does this view present in its full importance Miss Plummer's judicious appropriation of her bountiful gift.

The people of Salem and the public generally can now find access to the possessions of all these institutions far more advantageously than if each had its separate mansion. Whatever may be the object of any person's inquiry or research, it may now be pursued in the pleasantest manner without the trouble and interruption of passing from one place or building to another.

When to these various considerations is added the noble fact, that Miss Plummer in all her public benefactions designed to promote the best good of man and society—the improvement of mind, and heart and character—we can hardly value her gifts too highly, or appreciate her character too dearly. We now turn to the family in the bosom of which her virtues and affections were cherished and her character formed.

Dr. Joshua Plummer was the son of Samuel and Elizabeth Plummer, of Gloucester, and was born in that town, January 25, 1756. He graduated at Harvard College in 1773; studied medicine and settled as a physician in his native town. In 1777 he married Olive Lyman, daughter of the Rev. Isaac Lyman, of York, and sister of Theodore Lyman, the late eminent merchant of Boston. Soon after the revolutionary war, Dr. Plummer removed to Salem, where he died, August 21, 1791, at the age of 35; and where Mrs. Plummer died in 1802, in the 47th year of her age. They had seven children, three daughters and four sons, all living at the decease of their father; whose births and deaths took place as follows:

- Sophia Plummer, born September 6, 1778, died July 23, 1801.
- Caroline Plummer, born January 13, 1780, died May 15, 1854.
- Ernestus Augustus Plummer, born Nov. 2, 1781, died Sept. 28, 1823.
- Octavius Plummer, born September 27, 1783, died December, 1812.
- Theodore Parsons Plummer, born June 11, 1785, died Nov. 9, 1813.
- Lyman Plummer, born December 28, 1786, died June 12, 1805.
- Olivia Plummer, born November 24, 1789, died January 15, 1796.

Such is a simple record of the Plummer family. The oldest child was about thirteen, and the youngest not two years old at the time of the father's death. With this family of young children, upon her hands and her heart, Mrs. Plummer had no means for their support from her husband's estate, who probably derived nothing but his education from his father, and whose professional income had been barely sufficient for his current expenses. Her own energy and character, with the faithful and affectionate co-operation of her children, as they became able to assist her, were her main resources. On these she chose to rely as far as was possible, having the true spirit of self-reliance and wishing to cherish the same spirit in her children. This feeling of a common interest and common duties strengthened their attachment to each other, and with their suffering in common from severe afflictions produced in their sympathising hearts an indissoluble bond of union. An

early friend of Mrs. Plummer, a venerable and excellent lady still living, says, that she does not believe there ever existed among any relatives a stronger mutual affection than among the members of this bereaved family. Under such auspices were nurtured the virtues which have ultimately proved so rich a blessing to Salem. Thus distinguished, this remarkable family not only deserves our gratitude, but is worthy of studious attention, as a striking illustration of the influence of virtuous poverty in the education of children, compared with that of overflowing wealth.

Dr. Plummer left college at the age of seventeen, and at twenty-one he was already married and settled in his profession. He probably removed from Gloucester to Salem about the year 1785. A venerable gentleman, (Samuel Cook, Esq.) now living in Salem, informs us, that in his youth, before going to sea, he passed a year with Dr. Plummer—he thinks about 1786—who then lived in the house on the corner of Barton Square and Essex street, afterwards owned by the late Mr. Abel Lawrence. Mr. C.'s chief employment was in the care of Dr. Plummer's medicine shop and posting his books. He represents the Doctor as being in full practice and in high repute, especially as a surgeon,—a lively, generous man, who lived well and hospitably, often inviting him to remain at dinner. He thus became acquainted with all the family. Mrs. Plummer, he says, was a very fine woman, and the children attractive and interesting. Upon leaving Dr. Plummer, Mr. C. took to a sea life and recollects nothing more of him or his family.

Dr. Plummer appears to have been a man of some wit and humor, not always unmingled with satire, and to have been held in much regard by scholars and professional gentlemen, as well as by his patients. We have seen some humorous verses, addressed to him by the late Rev. Dr. Clarke, of Boston, one of his college friends, which evince a cordial friendship both for him and Mrs. Plummer. It appears also that Dr. Plummer occasionally wrote verses in a similar strain. He was evidently a true friend of science and literature. In the Memoir of the

late Dr. Holyoke* he is noted as one of the members of the Holyoke club, so famous for its scientific as well as social character; and also a proprietor in the Philosophical Library. It is observable that he gave to one of his sons the name of Theodore Parsons, a class-mate and medical friend, who was the youngest brother of the late Chief Justice Theophilus Parsons, and though he died young, was one of the original members of the Academy of Arts and Sciences. The circumstances here alluded to indicate the character of Dr. Plummer's early friends, and so may serve to illustrate his own.

In domestic life he has been traditionally represented as less remarkable for thrifty care in his own affairs than for his zeal and skill in the duties of his profession. But he certainly cherished a lively affection for his wife and children. As indicative of this we are tempted to introduce a single sentence, from a letter which contains also a pleasant allusion to our benefactress, then not two years old. The letter (without date) was written sometime in 1781, to his wife, when on a visit with their elder daughter and her attendant Ruthe, to her parents in York:—"As to Sophia you full well know how I love her. I feel the want of her when I first come down in the morning. Kiss her for me—let her kiss you for her papa. Caroline is well and hearty, but is more fond of Iddy than me;—for the first two days she cried at times, calling on mamma, Jutte and Sopa, but she has forgotten you all." We may also be allowed to take a few lines from some verses, illustrative of himself and Mrs. Plummer, and their domestic life,—which were addressed by him to their sister, Mary Lyman, who afterwards became the wife of Rev. Dr. Buckminster of Portsmouth:

"Stoop down ye breezes as ye gently move
And on your pinions bear a brother's love;
To my Maria's ear the following song
Will meet a welcome 'midst the gayest throng.

* There called Dr. *Ernestus* Plummer.

A little fire the evening's cold dispels,
 Olivia's presence every sorrow quells,
 Her lucid soul shines through each misty cloud,
 Where once I sigh I ten times laugh aloud."

He then describes the "luxurious board," with other usual accompaniments of abundant wealth,—which Mary might then have been witnessing among her affluent friends in Boston, and contrasting them with the simple viands "Olive's hands prepare,"—emphatically declares,—“we are happier than our betters.” Mrs. Plummer's education must have prepared her to adorn such a life as her husband thus poetically preferred. Her parents lived such a life and gave to it a charm by their virtues.

In Mrs. Lee's Memoirs of the Rev. Dr. Buckminster and of his son, Rev. J. S. Buckminster, we find a beautiful passage relating to the mother, from which we copy the following portion:—"Madam Lyman was a most lovely example of attractive old age. She retained the vivacity, the quickness of perception, the gentle dignity, and the winning sweetness, which we are apt to think belong exclusively to the younger periods of life. She had been educated by Mr. Moody, of York, one of the distinguished Puritan divines of our country, and she was familiar with the old English Poets; quotations from which she would frequently introduce into familiar conversation."

Dr. Hemmenway, in a "Sermon preached at York, March 16, 1810, at the interment of the Rev. Isaac Lyman, who deceased March 13, in the 86th year of his age and the 61st year of his ministry,"—after observing that Mr. Lyman had desired "that his character should be touched very slightly, if any mention of it should be made,"—represents him as a man of solid talents, a sound and sagacious judgment, of great probity, universally loved and respected by such as knew him, and that his religion was orthodoxy and charity united. His ministry and that of his predecessor, Mr. Moody, amounted to a hundred and ten years. Mrs. Lyman survived her husband a number of years, beloved and honored by her descendants.

Mrs. Plummer's genuine domestic and social virtues and richly cultivated understanding, for which she was so highly esteemed, would seem the natural result of the early influences of her parental home, with the enlightened society that was attracted to it. Such a home of course remained delightful through life, and her children enjoyed with her the pleasure of frequent and long visits to it; and she took care to impress upon them the importance of improving the privilege and receiving the valuable instruction which their grandparents were so ready to give.

Not long after Dr. Plummer's death, Mary Lyman became Mrs. Buckminster, and removed to Portsmouth,—thus affording another delightful place of occasional resort for Mrs. Plummer and her family. Rev. Dr. B. possessed every quality to render him interesting as a friend and brother. Dr. Oliver Keating, latterly a merchant of Boston, married another sister, and proved himself a sincere and constant friend to Mrs. Plummer and all her children. Her brother Theodore was of course an unfailing friend, and his mansion house, whether at Waltham or in Boston, was always open to her with a cordial welcome both from him and Mrs. Lyman. So remarkable indeed was Mrs. Plummer's power to entertain intellectual company, that her brother was proud as well as desirous of her presence whenever he had such company to be entertained; and this at that period was almost daily. Having such relatives and friends together with many other true friends in Salem and elsewhere, Mrs. Plummer and her children seemed to enjoy every advantage in social life, except the possession of money in their own independent right. This privation doubtless was keenly felt, but it served to stimulate their enterprise, industry and spirit of economy, and so proved ultimately best for the public if not for themselves. Mrs. Plummer, who had removed to the house in Essex street, next but one above Hamilton street, received into her family several professional gentlemen as boarders, among whom was Mr. Putnam, afterwards a Judge of our Supreme Judicial Court; and both he and Mrs. Putnam became her sincere and steadfast friends.

They were also among the best and most valued friends of Caroline through all her severe trials.

For a number of the last years of her life Mrs. Plummer suffered much from a liver complaint; but she never ceased her watchful care of the family. Some of her letters to her daughter Caroline remain, but unfortunately not one of Caroline's to her. These letters are mostly without date,—hastily written,—natural and easy as conversations with a child, yet full of intelligence and genuine affection, with not an unkind expression or sentiment in regard to any human being. They give a more pleasing impression of the writer than is often received from letters of greater pretension.

For five years after Dr. Plummer's death the family of children remained entire, and appear to have given their mother a great deal of happiness by their good conduct and promising characters. Olivia, the youngest child, died first, and in five years more, that is, in 1801, Sophia, the eldest, died,—both taken away as their father had been by consumption. The mother had already become so great an invalid as to excite the solicitude of all her friends and the distressing apprehensions of her young family to whom she was so dear and so important. Caroline, in whom she placed entire confidence, assumed the care of the family during the journies and visits which her mother's state of health required her to make. York, Portsmouth and Waltham were all attractive to her, and her friends at each of these places were eager to afford her every attention and gratification that could be conducive to her health, while Caroline strove to supply her place at home so as to make her feel easy in prolonging her visits, as she often did at the urgent desire both of her daughter and her friends. After being thus led to prolong one of her pleasant visits at Waltham seven weeks, she writes to Caroline—"Had I been told that I should be absent from *home* seven *weeks*, I should no more have believed it than that I should as many years. I long to see you all—when I shall I will not again say." At another time she writes—"I am very much pleased to hear that you go on so well at home, and you may depend upon it I shall be willing

to give you your *turn* when I return, as I expect to be well enough to take care of the family."

We have no better means of showing the early conduct and character of the brothers as well as of the sister than by their mother's letters; we therefore add a few very brief extracts, though we cannot give the dates. Mrs. Plummer seems to have had nothing but pleasure from the behavior of her children at home, during her necessary absences, while always manifesting a lively concern for their improvement. It would seem that her care for them was well repaid. The only allusion to a fault in any of her children is contained in the following passage, from a letter to Caroline, when about thirteen years old, and on a visit at her uncle Lyman's:—"I have received two letters from my dear Caroline—both of which pleased me very much except the handwriting. Accustom yourself to writing a plain hand,—it is of much consequence to those to whom you write, and it ought to be pleasing to yourself if for no other reason than that it will gratify your mamma, who most sincerely *loves* you, and whose first wish is the improvement of her children." Mrs. Plummer again alludes to the subject in a letter to Caroline when on a visit at York:—"I want very much to know how you employ your time—hope you will not acquire a habit of idleness from the circumstance of not being obliged to be industrious. As to your handwriting I shall say nothing about it—as to be sensible of our faults must be the first step towards amendment,—*which you seem fully to be.*" These monitions appear to have been effectual, for Caroline's handwriting became remarkably plain and distinct. When she was about fourteen years old, and on a visit at York, her mother wrote to her a letter containing the following passage:—"You must write by every opportunity. I want to see you more than I can express. I hope you pass your time in a manner agreeable and useful—you know now is the time for improvement. I know your grandpapa and grandma will give you all the instruction in their power, which is a great deal. Olivia very often says, "I long to see Caddy,—and says, I wish Ma you would call me

Caroline." From another letter to Caroline, when visiting at York, we take the following:—"If you were here you might copy this as you have often done for me. I miss you much in this as in many other things. Ruthe and the children send love and want to see you very much. This from your mamma, who most sincerely loves you and more ardently wishes your happiness than her own."

When quite a child Caroline was sometimes a visitor in the family of Rev. John Murray, at Gloucester, afterwards of Boston. Mrs. Murray was a superior woman, and one of Mrs. Plummer's excellent friends. While Caroline was on one of her visits with this lady, her mother writes to her from Waltham, among other things as follows:—"My best love to Mr. and Mrs. Murray. I feel very grateful for their kind attentions to you, and shall be very happy if it is ever in my power to make any return by attentions to their dear little Julia. We have on Friday a large party of gentlemen to dine,—after which I shall return home and enjoy a more retired life with my dear little ones, whom I long more than I can express to see." The following is from a letter written by Mrs. Plummer, when visiting her sister, Mrs. Keating, at Kennebunk, 8th September, (year omitted):—"My heart is made glad by the accounts you give me from home. I ever feel as though I had as much pleasure to expect from my family as their situation will at any time admit of, as they ever appear disposed to add to my happiness, and it could not be in their power to do it *so perfectly as by conducting well.*" We here take a single sentence from a letter written to her sister, Mary Lyman, showing that Mrs. Plummer doubtless paid a proportionate attention to the manners as well as principles of her children, in regard to both of which she appears to have been so successful:—"Manners I think a very essential part of education. Separate from the strictest rules of morality, I know of no one quality that gains the love and respect of the best part of mankind so universally as that of polite manners."

The following extracts are taken from letters to Caroline, written by Mrs. Plummer while on visits at her brother

Lyman's in Waltham, probably during her last illness:—
 "I am very glad to hear you go on so smoothly—if my advice were *necessary*, I have been so long absent that I could not give it. I am delighted to hear the boys are so good." Soon after her arrival at Waltham, on one of these visits, Mrs. Plummer writes to Caroline as follows:—"You may judge of my health when I tell you I arose a little after five this morning—and such an air as I breathed—an air that would almost revive the dead! * * I could hardly suppose, from the appearance of things around me, that diseases or distress of any kind ever was or ever could be introduced in any part of the world." No remaining letter appears more probably the last than the one from which the following extract is taken:—"My dear Caroline, I received your obliging letter last evening and feel much satisfied that you are all doing so well. As to myself I think I feel nearly as well as ever. I am sometimes troubled with a little pain in my side, or I should certainly forget that disease had ever visited this globe. It seems to me as if this was the land of enchantment. We have had company every day except Monday. I ride every day as long and as often as I please—it seems impossible for me not to recover with the air, diet, and agreeable attentions I receive from every one."

It may be interesting to know something of Mrs. Plummer's religious views. She appears to have taken the whole of one part of her father's religion, as described by Dr. Hemmenway—"orthodoxy and charity united,"—with very little of the other part. Her real views on this important subject may be best learned from a letter (without date) to her father, written probably soon after the birth of her last child, in answer to one from him. After expressing the pleasure it gave her to know that she was remembered by her parents with tender affection, she says, in reference to her father's mention of her increased cares:—"I have a very kind assistant in Ruthe, whom I highly esteem; in general I feel myself very willing to be carefully employed for the good of my family, and I hope I shall be enabled to give them those

examples and instructions which will be serviceable to them here, and give them pleasing ideas of a happy existence hereafter." She then proceeds as follows:—"It gives me pain to know that I have made you sorry upon any occasion—though perhaps, dear sir, you have as little reason to regret my acquaintance with the person* you mention as for any action of my life. If you receive the ordinances as necessary to salvation, I think I can venture to say that the doctrine preached by him has not prevented my partaking of them. I don't know that baptism, in the way that it is commonly made use of, is any where recommended in the N. T., and think I am sure it is not commanded. I have ever thought that the example of our Saviour, in that respect, must be the most proper, as that must be an *act* of the person. I own I can conceive it in no sort essential that a *public* dedication of a child should be made in order to its being an acceptable offering to the Deity. As to the sacrament, I have ever *viewed* it with love and respect; and nothing has prevented my accepting *that* kind invitation,—'Do this in remembrance of me'—but the necessity of a declaration of a particular set of tenets, which perhaps it is not in my power to believe. Could I without any form or ceremony, when I felt disposed, receive the bread and wine, not as a command, but as a high privilege, be assured I should joyfully accept it." In a letter written at the same time, to her sister, Mary Lyman, Mrs. Plummer says:—"The immortality of the soul I think I feel within me; and that I shall be happy, not from my own deserts but from the goodness of the author of my existence, gives me that tranquillity of mind which the world cannot give or take. Did I depend entirely upon myself, how miserable should I feel, for how incapable do I know myself of doing any thing worthy of future bliss. But I hope it will be in my power to conduct in such a manner as to evince my gratitude for such prospects."

* Doubtless the Rev. John Murray, the Universalist preacher, first of Gloucester, afterwards of Boston.

Mrs. Plummer died within seven months after her eldest daughter. The Salem Gazette, of Feb. 15, 1802, in recording the sad event, observes, that she sustained a long and painful illness with uncommon fortitude, and died as she had lived, a pattern of female excellence.

Caroline, the only surviving daughter, was now left alone, with her four brothers, who looked up to her with mingled respect and affection, and who were regarded by her with the tenderness of parental as well as sisterly love.

In 1803, I became a resident in Salem for about a year, during which I had the pleasure to enjoy a friendly acquaintance with Miss Plummer. A classmate and friend, whom I found here, in speaking of the interesting persons I should meet in the society of Salem, described Caroline Plummer as eminently distinguished by her intellectual gifts and graces, and her powers of conversation. Such I found was her reputation among the best people in Salem, and such upon personal acquaintance was my own decided impression. This distinction was the natural result of her fine endowments and the social influences under which she had lived and been educated. Her education, taking the word in its broadest sense, though simple, was of a high order. Her only school teachers were Mrs. and Miss Higginson, who were among the best and most truly refined women of that day in New England. Of a similar character were her associates at her mother's table and fireside, and in the various families where she was a privileged visitor and inmate. When with her grandparents at York she must have had substantial literary instruction and been under influences conducive to the high moral principles for which she was ever remarkable. In her character and attainments she strikingly resembled her grandmother Lyman, as described by Mrs. Lee. She had cultivated the same familiarity with the British poets, extended doubtless to an intimate acquaintance with English literature generally. In Salem her friends and companions were of the choicest character. From infancy to maturity indeed she appeared to have known no other. Mr. and Mrs. Bowditch, whose house and whose hearts were always open to

receive her, were her sincere and steadfast friends. With them she was most intimately confidential. Dr. Bowditch was at all times her wise counsellor as well as dear friend, and his influence was as valuable to her as it was great. No one better understood her whole character, or held it in higher esteem. In the last interview I ever had with Dr. B.—a few days before his death,—he spoke with much feeling of several of his Salem friends, and in relation to Miss Plummer I well remember the emphatic manner in which he said,—“On every point of integrity and honor Caroline Plummer is as true as the needle to the pole.”

Miss Plummer was nowhere happier than in Salem, and the period to which we have referred, about 1804, was perhaps the happiest of her life. With no anxious cares for her brothers—whose prospects were flattering,—and surrounded by admiring friends, whom she loved, she could freely enjoy the richest pleasures of social life. The society of Salem at that time was adapted to her taste and habits, and she was remarkably adapted to that. Salem still retained much of its old character of combined economy, simplicity and intelligence. Social parties were managed with a view to rational enjoyment, not for display of any kind,—free from needless ceremony, and rarely so large as to interfere with the main purpose. Conversation and friendly intercourse were relied on for the chief entertainment. Caroline Plummer's expected presence was a sufficient attraction to all who loved such an entertainment, which she was so sure to afford. Yet she did not talk with apparent design to entertain—certainly not, to set off her powers, of which she seemed unconscious; and this absence of all pretension added to the charm of her society. Her rich thoughts and sentiments flowed out spontaneously in appropriate language, often enlivened with genuine wit and humor. Her literary attainments, which were considerable, did not hang as ornaments on her mind to be displayed occasionally, but were so blended with her native good sense and the results of her own experience and observation, that they appeared alike natural and graceful;—and, what is perhaps a rarer

excellence, her conversation was characterized by a high moral tone and true dignity, being as free from all scandal as it was above mere frivolity.

At this happy period of her life her brothers too were all happy, with prosperity before them almost sure to be realized. Their several characters, dispositions and talents satisfied her heart, and her ambition. Were it consistent with our prescribed limits, each of these excellent young men would deserve at our hands a particular biographical sketch, both from their merits and their share in our gratitude. Nor would such a sketch be devoid of interest. But we can give little more of their history than the sad and fatal events which befell them, and which so deeply and so permanently affected their bereaved sister.

Lyman, the youngest, was the first to suffer a disastrous fate. He was the darling brother, and beloved by all who knew him. In 1804, he went upon his first voyage, in one of his uncle Lyman's ships, and in June, of the following year, he was massacred with most of the officers and crew, on board the ship. The following is a part of the account of this tragic affair, published at the time :—

“ Particular account of the Massacre of the officers and crew of the ship Atahualpa, Capt. Porter. The ship Atahualpa had been laying at anchor in Sturgis Cove, up Mill Bank Sound, three days; the natives had during that time been remarkably civil; June 12, they came off in several canoes, and desired Capt. Porter to purchase their skins, and about 10 o'clock, A. M., Cai-ete, the chief of one of their tribes, desired Capt. Porter to look over the side, to see the large number of skins, laying spread on his canoe. Capt. Porter was complying, but was obliged to bend over the rail, when the chief threw his coat over his head, stabbed him twice between the shoulders, and threw him over board; and gave the signal for a general attack. Mr. John Hill, chief mate, was shot through the body, but ran below, got his musket, returned on deck, shot the chief, and gave him his mortal wound. John W. Goodwin, 2d mate, shot dead. John G. Rackstraw, daggered, and died immediately. Lyman Plummer, daggered, and lived until the ship was got out, when

he requested the surviving crew to take care of the ship, and find Capt. Brown."

The account proceeds to give fuller details. Five of the crew were killed, including the cook, who defended himself bravely so long as his hot water lasted. Five were badly but not fatally wounded; five were slightly wounded; four were all that escaped clear. These, with several of the slightly wounded, managed so as to overcome the natives and get the ship out of the sound,—when Lyman Plummer gave them his dying instructions. His conduct on this occasion was most honorable to him, as was his whole character on the voyage. He had been heard from by the arrival of a vessel, the crew of which spoke of him in the highest terms,—that "he had almost the command of the whole ship he was in."

We copy the following, from "Lines on the death of Mr. Lyman Plummer, aged 17, June, 1805."

"Where the rude savage roamed the uncultured field,
Taught from his youth the fatal lance to wield,
Where Nootka's hostile tribe and murd'rous band
Swell the war whoop and line the neighb'ring strand;
Beneath Cai-ete's steel and hellish cries,
The adventurous youth, the virtuous Plummer dies!
By savage hands the fatal stroke was given
That robbed the world and winged his soul to Heaven.
Ill fated youth! Ere half disclosed thy prime,
Rude was the passage down the stream of time;
Black was the billow's overwhelming gloom;
And fierce the blast that hurled thee to the tomb;
Swept in one fate, each dear illusion gone,
Each transport fled that Hope had called her own;
Thy genius pointed to a gentler sky,
And closed to earth the Heaven directed eye."

The tragical death of this precious brother was the severest stroke of affliction that Miss Plummer ever endured. It crushed her to the earth, and she never entirely recovered from the blow. But her surviving brothers were if possible still dearer, and she failed in no duty to them. Octavius had always been particularly endeared to her by the gentleness of

his nature, the sweetness of his disposition, and his delicate feelings and sympathy. After passing some time with his uncle Theodore Lyman, he obtained a clerkship in the supervisor's office in Boston, under the late Hon. Jonathan Jackson, and had the honor to enjoy his friendship and patronage. After being sometime a clerk in one of the Boston banks, he received through Mr. Jackson's favor an advantageous offer in 1810, to go as supercargo in a ship belonging to the late Mr. P. T. Jackson, on a voyage to Russia. The ship was captured and taken into Norway, in consequence of which Mr. Plummer was subjected to many troubles and vexations, and kept abroad more than two years in attending upon several judicial trials with the captors, and after getting his ship cleared, in settling the business of the voyage; all which he honorably accomplished. Improved health and the pleasure of passing some time with his brother Ernestus, at St. Petersburg, were almost his only compensation for his severe hardships. Having remitted his own net receipts to Mr. Williams, in London, he proceeded thither himself, and in December, 1812, took passage in the Catherine Jane, Capt. Darling, for the United States. Neither he nor the vessel in which he sailed was ever after heard of!

Theodore Parsons, the next brother, was remarkable for his enterprising spirit, his open hearted and frank disposition, and his intelligence and good humor. Before going to sea, he together with Ernestus passed several years at Kennebunk in the business of their uncle Lyman. In 1806, he took his first voyage, which was to South America, under the patronage of his uncle Keating, the steadfast friend to him and all the family. The next year he went to Batavia in the East Indies; and in succeeding years he was engaged in various important voyages to different countries of Europe, South America and the West Indies, till his death, from a fever, at Havana, in November, 1813. The times were disastrous and he suffered severely in many ways, but his conduct throughout was upright, manly and honorable. A printed card, dated "Havana, 10th November, 1813," manifests the respect paid to his

memory on the occasion of his funeral. His amiable and noble qualities commended him at once wherever he sojourned. Strangers were mourners at his grave.

It was at this moment of the sister's deep affliction that her only remaining brother, Ernestus Augustus, came home from his long residence abroad to mingle his tears with hers. Now, as we have before shown, she "looked to him for her whole happiness;" and he "devoted to her his attention and his love." And so it was as long as he lived; but within ten years he also was taken away, leaving her alone to cherish her grief in gloomy retirement, with no heart for any earthly comfort but from the sympathy of intimate friends who could appreciate all her sorrows. Mr. Plummer died in Salem, on the 28th of September, 1823. The surviving sister, after years of lingering illness, died on the 15th of May, 1854.

Thus, for more than thirty years, Miss Plummer lived, the last survivor of her worthy family, to every one of whom she had been bound by the strongest ties of love. Her seclusion from general society could not have been unexpected, though the soothing hand of time softened her grief and enabled her to enjoy the company of her chosen friends and the gratification of her refined tastes. Her favorite books, pictures, and other works of art, with which her rooms were adorned, and the kind friends who visited her in those rooms, afforded all the entertainment which she appeared to desire.* Her nerves had been shattered, and her health so impaired, that she was ever after a suffering invalid. Yet she did not lose the vigor or the lofty aspirations of her mind. Among her most admired authors was Dr. Channing, and her intimate friends knew how earnestly she prayed for the strong and elevating faith which he so fully possessed. Her habits of strict economy might

* Miss Plummer's residence at this time, was in Essex street, next above the Higginson house,—which she also purchased, after the death, in 1846, of Miss Mehitable Higginson. Both houses have recently been removed to give place to the elegant mansion of John Bertram, Esq.

have appeared to superficial observers unworthy of her character, while her independent spirit and conscious rectitude made her indifferent to popular prejudice. Having determined to dispose of her large property for beneficent public purposes, she naturally discouraged applications for her contribution to other objects, not merely in accordance with the habits of her life, but because she wished to reserve all the property she could for her great intended purposes. She was a true daughter of Salem. "Charity and economy were nursed together," in the early years of each, and were followed in each by abounding wealth. May the spirit of public beneficence manifested by the one be so appreciated by the other that many sons and daughters will be induced to "go and do likewise."

In aid of this bright example comes up the cheering memory of the old benevolent worthies of Salem. Their names have not yet died out, nor the spirit which animated them, nor the wealth which enabled them to gratify that noble spirit, while new names have sprung up—some among our merchants—which already rival in the lustre of generous deeds that of the first William Browne. May the descendants prove to be as prosperous and public spirited as were his! Plummer Hall, we might then hope, would ere long exhibit in its various apartments additional treasures of literature and science worthy of itself and of the city which it adorns.

An elevated and beautiful spot, in the Broad street cemetery, contains the graves of all the members of the Plummer family who have died in Salem:—The parents, the three daughters, and the eldest son—with appropriate monuments to each. The spot is surrounded by a neat iron fence, with cultivated shrubbery, showing the thoughtful and tender care of the last survivor. It appears that Miss Plummer had contemplated erecting a marble monument to the memory of her brothers. We have before us the inscription intended for it in her own handwriting, and we present it here exactly as prepared by herself, as a fitting close to this brief Memoir of the Family.

THIS MARBLE is placed to the Memory of the Sons of Dr. JOSHUA and Mrs. OLIVE PLUMMER, as a tribute of the strongest and purest affection the human heart is capable of feeling, by a Sister, towards whom the Brothers united the characters of Parents, Children, the tenderest Friends and the sweetest Companions.

LYMAN PLUMMER,
aged 17;

Killed, June, 1805, by the Indians of the N. W coast of America,
while defending the property of another.

OCTAVIUS PLUMMER,
aged 28;

Supposed to be shipwrecked on his passage from London to
America, December, 1812.

THEODORE PARSONS PLUMMER,
aged 27;

Died at Havana, November 9, 1813.

And under its shelter lie the ashes of
ERNESTUS AUGUSTUS PLUMMER.
aged 42;

Who died September 28, 1823.

"Dead! all are dead!

Alas! how oft the wretched sister bled;
Yet was it ne'er her fate from them to find
A deed ungentle, or a word unkind."

It is but simple justice to say, they each possessed strong sense, incorruptible integrity, the utmost benevolence of disposition, joined to most amiable tempers, and engaging manners.

"As those we love, decay, we die in part,
String after string is severed from the heart,
'Till loosened life, at last, but breathing clay,
Without one pang is glad to fall away.
Unhappy he who latest feels the blow,
Whose eyes have wept o'er every friend laid low,
Dragged, ling'ring on, from partial death to death,
'Till, dying, all he can resign, is breath."